

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 HEW-08 DODE-00 AID-20 L-03

AGR-20 IGA-02 DRC-01 /165 W
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R 201125Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4106
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1067

FROM USDEL CND

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, UN

SUBJ: CND: DISCUSSION WITH THAI DELEGATION

1. US REP HAD GENERAL DISCUSSION FEB. 18 WITH THAI REP
(CHITRA POSAYANONDA) CONCERNING NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS
IN THAILAND OF MUTUAL INTEREST. USREP ASSURED THAI REP
OF US CONTINUING INTEREST AND SUPPORT OF BOTH ENFORCEMENT
AND CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS WHICH RTG HAS UNDERWAY
WITH ASSISTANCE FROM US AND FROM UNFDAC. HE EXPRESSED
HOPE THAT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN NORTH THAILAND WOULD
BE SUCCESSFUL AND WOULD PROVIDE PATTERN FOR ACTION IN
OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO CONFRONTED WITH NECESSITY OF ENFORCING
LAWS AGAINST NARCOTICS AND ALSO DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES TO
ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION.

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2. THAI REP CONFIRMED THAI GOVERNMENT POLICY IS TO
ELIMINATE ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION BUT FIRST TO DEVELOP

ALTERNATIVE CROPS WHICH CAN BE GROWN AND MARKETING IN LIEU OF OPIUM. HE SAID HILL TRIBESMEN ARE READY AND WILLING TO PLANT SOMETHING ELSE WHICH CAN BE DEMONSTRATED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE SUBSTITUTE. HE EXPRESSED OPINION PILOT PROJECTS ARE PROVING THEIR WORTH BUT THAT WORK MUST GO FORWARD GRADUALLY AT ABOUT PRESENT RATE. HE DOUBTED THAT CROP REPLACEMENT COULD BE EXTENDED ANY MORE RAPIDLY IN HILL VILLAGES. HE DID FEEL HOWEVER THAT REDUCED EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE WOULD MEAN SLOWER PROGRESS IN BOTH ENFORCEMENT AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS.

3. THAI REP EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION PROBLEM IN GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA COULD ONLY BE EFFECTIVELY DEALT WITH THROUGH COOPERATION OF THREE COUNTRIES INVOLVED, AND ON "NON-POLITICAL" BASIS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US COULD FACILITATE AND ASSIST A COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

4. THAI REP ASKED WITH RESPECT TO ITEM 9 OF CND AGENDA WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT US INTENDED TO GROW OPIUM IN US FOR PRODUCTION OF MEDICAL OPIATES. USREP IN EXPLAINING EVOLUTION OF US POSITION ON THIS ITEM, MADE IT CLEAR THAT US EXPERIMENTATION WITH GROWTH POPPY STRAW WOULD BE FOR EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE OF RESEARCH WITH INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION TO IMPROVE PROCESSES WITH RESULTS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE INTERNATIONALLY. THAI REP OBVIOUSLY DESIRED AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES US HAD MADE NO REPEAT NO DECISION TO ENTER INTO DOMESTIC PRODUCTION BUT INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO MEET DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS THROUGH IMPORTS.

5. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION THAI REP EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT US EXPERIMENTATION WITH POPPY GROWTH IN US WOULD CREATE CONTROL PROBLEM WHICH USMIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MANAGE. HE WAS FEARFUL OF THE DANGER ILLICIT GROWTH AND PRODUCTION MIGHT GET OUT OF CONTROL AND SPREAD THROUGH US, CREATING SAME PROBLEMS FOR US THAT THAILAND IS TRYING TO ELIMINATE. HE ASKED US TO CONSIDER EXPERIMENTAL PLANTINGS IN THAILAND RATHER THAN IN US AND DECLARED THEY WOULD BE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED IN THAILAND. USREP ASSURED THAI REP THAT US HAD ALREADY A DEMONSTRATED GROWTH AND PRODUCTION CAPABILITY DEVELOPED DURING WORLD WAR II AND KOREAN WAY, YET HAD NEVER INITIATED PRODUCTION, AND THAT US IS CONFIDENT OF CAPACITY TO KEEP UNDER STRICT CONTROL ITS EXPERIMENTAL PLANTINGS FOR RESEARCH. IN REPLY TO THAI SUGGESTION USREP TOOK UNEQUIVICAL POSITION IT WOULD BE UNWISE AND DANGEROUS TO HAVE EXPERIMENTAL PLANTINGS IN THAILAND, WHERE THEY MIGHT PREJUDICE THAI PROGRAMS FOR ELIMINATING UNCONTROLLED ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPING REPLACEMENT CROPS.

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6. WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION WITH THAI DELEGATION
TO INCREASE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF US POSITION AND PROPOSALS
ON ITEM 9 AND TO SEEK TO OBTAIN THAI SUPPORT OR AT LEAST
TO AVOID THAI OPPOSITION.DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, MEETING DELEGATIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA01067
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740222/aaaaaukb.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CND: DISCUSSION WITH THAI DELEGATION
TAGS: SNAR, US, UN, (POSAYANONDA, CHITRA)
To: STATE BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005